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THE CASE

OF THE BURROUGH OF

Dunwich in Suffolk,

Upon their Election of Members to ſerve in the Convention *Appointed to meet the 22d. of* January 1689.

THIS Burrough chooſeth by Preſcription, and not by Charter, and had Bailiffs before they were a Corporation.

Their Firſt Charter was granted by King *John*, which hath been renewed in divers Kings Reigns; Whereby *The Good Men of Dunwich* are made a Corporation, and have divers Franchiſes and Priviledges granted unto them; as to be quit of Toll, Portage, *&c.* but no mention is made in any of them of Elections to Parliament.

About 25 years ſince the Magiſtrates began to make profit by Selling Freedoms of the Corporation, and the Benefit of their Priviledges, granting the ſame by Deed, under the Seal of the Corporation, to divers Cole-traders and other perſons living in *Ipſwich*, *Yarmouth*, *Norwich*, and other remoter places, who upon ſhewing the Common Seal have had Allowances made them accordingly, and in ſome late Elections have been admitted to Vote; being above Four hundred in number.

Upon Notice given of the Election upon the *Prince's Letter*, about Three hundred of theſe, being above thrice as many as the Inhabitants, came to the Election and claim'd a Poll, which was not denied them.

The Opinions of the moſt Eminent and Indifferent Council hath been taken, concerning the Right of theſe Foreign Freemen, to Vote in Elections; who ſay,

I. *That the Right of Chooſing is as antiently it was, in the Inhabitants only, and that the Charters of Incorporation have no Influence upon it.*

II. *That the Charters being granted to the Men of* Dunwich, *without a Power expreſſed, To make Foreigners free; ſuch Freedoms granted to Foreigners, are as to the Corporation it ſelf, an abuſe, and void.*

III. *That it is not in the Power of the Magiſtrates to inlarge the Number of Electors, by conſtituting Foreign Freemen, as many and whom they pleaſe.*

However they thought fit to make the following Return, *Viz.*

CHoſen, according to the moſt Antient Cuſtom, by the Majority of the Free Burgeſſes inhabiting within this Burrough, the Honourable Roger North *and Sir* Thomas Allen, *to be Repreſentatives*, &c.

And alſo Choſen by a leſſer number of Burgeſſes, reſiding within the Burrough, and by the Major part of the Freemen of the Corporation, who live out of the Burrough, Sir Philip Skippon *and Sir* Robert Rich, *to be likewiſe Repreſentatives*, &c.

The ſaid Return is under the Common Seal, according to Cuſtom, and it is humbly hoped, that the ſaid Mr. *North* and Sir *Thomas Allen*, in right of all the Inhabitants of the ſaid Burrough, may be admitted to Sit and Act in the ſaid Convention, according to the Truſt repoſed in them, they being firſt named:

The rather, Becauſe, unleſs the Perſons choſen by the Inhabitants, be allowed to Sit, it may be pretended that the ſaid Burrough, will have no Repreſentatives, in this Convention.